

USE OF LIBRARY ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AMONG SELECTED ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES IN TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

This Paper attempts to deal with users opinion regarding the usage of Library Electronic Resources of selected arts and science colleges in Tamil Nadu. This study attempts to find out the familiarity, purpose and utility of library e-resources by the users of arts and science colleges. Analysis and interpretation are mainly from the information collected through questionnaire cum interview method. This paper provides few suggestions for the effective use of the resources among arts and science college libraries.

KEYWORDS: Library E-Resources, User Survey, Academic Library, Arts and Science Colleges, Tamil Nadu

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INTRODUCTION

The library resources are becoming more and more important for the academic community for their teaching and research. Libraries are a primary resource for conducting academic research. Learning how to use them and their resources effectively is important to understanding the research process. Libraries provide access to information through online research databases and library catalogs, and Internet resources, as well as traditional print resources. Understanding how to select and use the appropriate resources for specific information needs is the key to successful research. To become adept at locating and using information for research, you must know about the many different resources available to you.

E- Resources

The electronic resources are defined as “systems in which information is stored electronically and made accessible through electronic systems and computer networks”. It includes electronic articles, Online- Databases, E-journals E-books, Internet resources OPAC, CD-ROMs, etc..

Features of E-Resources:

Multiple accesses speed,

Rich content,

Reuse,

Timeliness,

Anywhere access is some of the features of e-resources

- Not restricted to geographical location
- Access to current information
- Various search techniques
- Extensive links to explore additional resources

It is important that the library has an informed perspective on how e-resources are used and valued by the user community regarding their awareness and use of these materials.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of literature is an essential component of any research investigation, which gives necessary input to the investigator to frame the research study on the chosen topic. Afaq and Mahmood (2005) in their study investigated the use of library and information science (LIS) journals (electronic and print) in two developing countries Malaysia and Pakistan. The targeted group includes two sets of graduate students from Departments of Library and Information Science, each in an academic institution from one of the two countries. Findings of the survey questionnaire showed that LIS Journals had as their objective the provision of leadership in the practice of librarianship. The profession needed to have a heightened awareness of LIS journals and required fast and easy access to that body of literature. For developing countries that objective could only be met through help of developed nations who could provide improved means to access LIS journals more efficiently and more effectively in both paper and electronic at Ankara University.

Naushad Ali (2005) examined the use of electronic information services (EIS) among the users of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Library in Delhi, India. Both questionnaire and Observational method were used for data collection where 300 valid samples were collected. The analysis of the data collected covered awareness of EIS Services, use of e-journals, advanced search facilities, acquaintance with electronic information sources, the purpose of using e-information, problems faced by the users while using EIS, infrastructure facility available and satisfaction level of users. The study found that Boolean logic and truncation are the most often used search facilities by IIT users. Lack of printing facilities, terminals and trained staff are the major reasons that would discourage users from accessing the e-resources. The survey also reveals that some 60 percent of the users faced difficulties while browsing e-information.

Mishra and Reshma Rekha (2010) in their study reveal that the use of e-resources among the students of the library under study is primarily to update knowledge. The teachers of the university under study use UGC-Infonet and INDEST Consortium to find the latest information in their own subject and constitute the highest percentage for using the e-journals. It is also surprising to note that a good number of respondents are not used to e-resources of the library due to the lack of their awareness. Masoumeh (2011) this study was to determine users dependency on electronic and print journals by the most frequently users of journals-research scholars and faculty in Iran. A total of 118 faculty members and research scholars were selected. The results showed that the majority of users had high dependency on electronic journals. Omotayo (2011) finds that majority of respondents prefer electronic journals than print journals. All respondents were of the opinion that use will continue to increase. It showed that only 35% of the respondents had published in electronic journals.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the user approach/ frequency of use of e-resources
- To study the users and the purpose of use of e-resources
- To examine the time spent in libraries.
- To assess the satisfaction level of the users regarding e-resources.

METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire has been administrated to the users of Arts and science Colleges under study in order to examine the opinion on use of library e-resources by the users. This study tries to find out the use of e-resources by the users of arts and science colleges. Among the 900 questionnaires circulated among the five selected arts and science colleges in Chennai 640 responses were received (71.11%).

DATA ANALYSIS & DISCUSSIONS

The data thus collected have been further analysed. The Demographic characteristics of respondents are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Demographic Details

Sl. No.	Description	Nos.	%
1	Sex		
	Male	430	67.2
2.	Female	210	32.8
	Category		
	Student	575	89.9
	Faculty	65	10.1

The majority of the respondents were male 430, (67.2%) compared to female. Majority respondents for the both gender belongs to the student community 240, (89.9%), and it followed by faculty group 65, (10.1%).

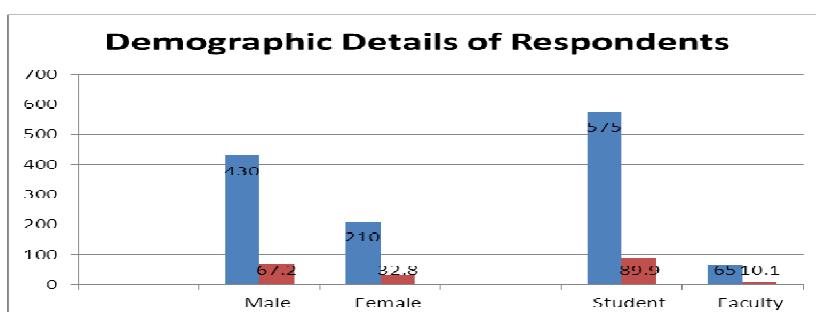


Figure 1: Demographic Details of Respondents

Table 2: Average Time Spent by the users Vs. Respondents

S. No	Frequency	Respondents n=640	%
1.	One hour	320	50.00
2.	Between 1 - 2 hour	190	29.70
3.	Between 2 - 3 hour	100	15.60
4.	Above 3 hour	30	04.70
	Total	640	100

The above table describes that 50% respondents spent one hour on use of library. Its followed by between 1 -2 hour (30%). Only 30 respondents spent more than 3 hour per week in library.

Table 3: Awareness about E-Resources

S. No	Awareness	Respondents N=640	%
1.	Well aware	295	46.11
2.	Aware	190	29.68
3.	Somewhat Know	125	19.53
4.	Not aware	30	04.68
	Total	640	100

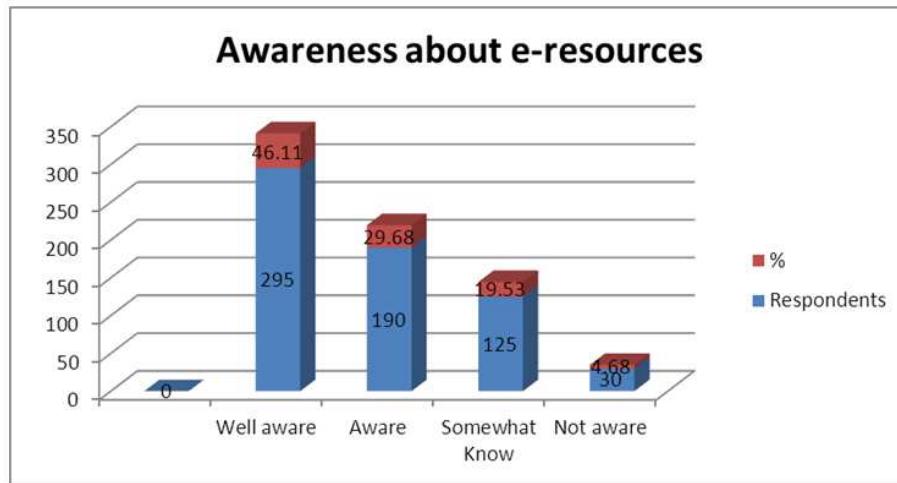


Figure 2: Awareness about E-Resources

Table 3 indicates that almost 295 respondents (46.11 %) are well aware of electronic resources, it is followed by 190 respondents (29.68%) are aware, but whereas only 30 respondents (04.68 %) are not aware of them.

Table 4: Frequency of Use of E-Resources

S. No	Frequency	Respondents N=640	%
1.	Daily	120	18.70
2.	Once in a week	190	29.60
3.	Once in a Fortnight	90	14.20
4.	Once in a Month	160	25.00
5.	Rarely	80	12.50
	Total	640	100

The above table shows that majority (29.6%) of the respondents use e-resources once in a week. Only 80 of the respondents uses e-resources at rarely.

Table 5: Purpose of Use of E-Resources

No.	Purpose	Respondents n=640	%
1.	To read subject information	260	40.63
2.	To read e-books /e-journals	110	17.19
3.	To keep up to date	50	7.81
4.	For research purpose	80	12.50
5.	To read e-news papers	40	6.25

Table 5: Contd.,			
6.	To read e-articles	40	6.25
7.	To complete assignments/project works	30	4.69
8.	Other purpose	30	4.69
Total		640	100.00

The above table deals with the purpose of use of e-resources. Most of them come for reading subject related information. It is followed by read e-books /e-journals and research purpose.

Table 6: Based on Level of Satisfaction of E- Resources

S. No	Level of Satisfaction	Respondents N=640	%
1.	Fully satisfied	150	23.44
2.	Satisfied	320	50.00
3.	Less satisfied	95	14.84
4.	Dissatisfied	75	11.72
	Total	640	100

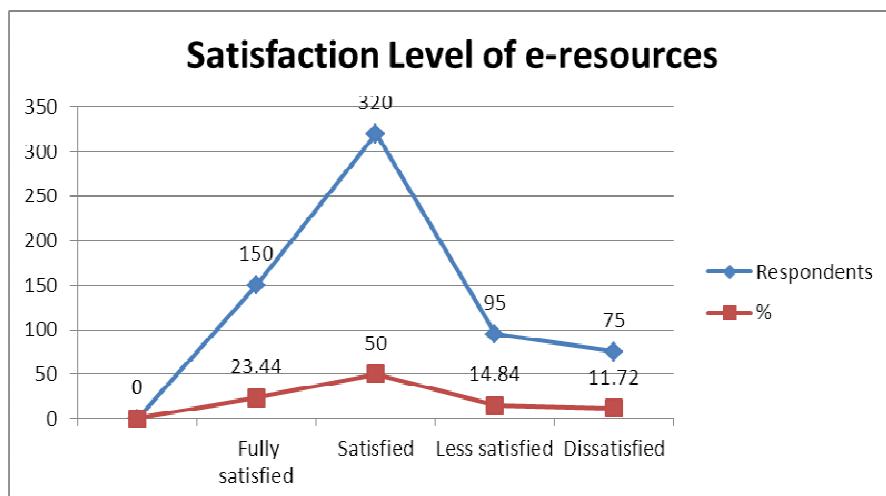


Figure 3: Satisfaction Level of E-Resources

Table 6 shows the results that half of the users 320 respondents (50%) are satisfied with all e- resources they are getting from the identified sources. Furthermore, 150 (23.44%) indicated they were fully satisfied while 95 (14.84%) and 75 (11.72%) indicated less satisfied and dissatisfied respectively.

SUGGESTIONS AND FINDINGS

Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations are made:

- Speed of internet and intranet connection to be increased for quick access to available e- resources.
- Use and usability of e- resources by the users needs to be made on regular basis
- Library professionals have to create more awareness on e-resources
- Library has to take steps to arrange various training and orientation programmes for faculty members to use the availability of e- resources.

CONCLUSIONS

User satisfaction is important as library patrons who once had limited choices in where to redeem their customer service vouchers, now they have choices – site visits, remote access, mega bookstores, and a plethora of online resources. This is a matter of concern, as presently, electronic information sources and the Internet are considered extremely important tools for effective teaching and research. Accordingly, these resources have occupied a vital role in the collection and budget of almost all libraries. Faculty members are heavily dependent on e- resources for their teaching and research and keep them up-to date. The study reveals that users of selected arts and Science College are using the available e- resources satisfactorily.

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